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MR. SPEAKER :—" To-morrow I want to finish off questions in half an hour and take up the food debate. But if the hon. Member still wants that his question should be taken up to-morrow, I have no objection."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" In view of the importance of the question, I want that it be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection."

Measures to alleviate the distress of beggars.

* 405 *Q.*—SRI G. LATCHANNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are proposing to take any measures to alleviate the distress of beggars in the State; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) In Madras City there are at present a workhouse for able-bodied beggars and a Special Home for infirm and diseased beggars maintained by the Corporation.

In the mufassal, the municipalities of Coimbatore, Ooty and Nellore are running Special Homes for infirm and diseased beggars under the Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1945. The Madurai Municipality has a proposal to start a combined workhouse and special home which will be put into operation at a very early date. A proposal to open a beggar home in Pudukkottai by the Municipality is also under the consideration of the Government.

The Government have no other specific schemes under consideration at present to alleviate the distress of beggars in the State."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" In view of the fact that the provisions in the Act are not satisfactorily implemented, what measures do the Government propose to take to see that the Act is worked satisfactorily?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is being worked only in certain towns. As far as I know, steps are being taken for the proper working of the Act."

SRI M. R. RAMACHANDRAN :—" Sir, is there any distinction between the City beggars and mufassal beggars in view of the fact that the City beggars are more organised or are craving for more amenities?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" City beggars are more prosperous than rural beggars." (Loud laughter.)

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In view of the importance of this problem, may I ask the Government to appoint a committee to go into this question and arrive at a final solution?"

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The beggar problem is not an isolated problem. It is part of the general problem of raising the standard of our country."

SRI L. LAKSHMANA DAS :—" Will the Government consider the suggestion that deserving beggars should be given shelter and food at the temples according to the income of the temples concerned? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. Certain temples have undertaken these relief measures for housing beggars."

SRI A. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that in recent times the beggar problem has assumed considerable proportions in Madras City, and, if so, what are the effective steps taken by the Government to mitigate this evil, if not to completely eradicate it? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whether the problem has increased in any way, I am not aware. Anyhow, proper steps are being taken as far as Madras City is concerned. As I have already said, the City beggars are perhaps in a prosperous condition."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Will the Government consider the proposal to separate able-bodied beggars from the disabled, and compulsorily isolate them in beggar homes and also enlarge the accommodation for such persons? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" They are kept separately, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Why not tackle the problem by the creation of a separate portfolio for beggars, Sir? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Considering the number of Members rising to put questions, the proposal seems quite important. But, Sir, I wish to bring to the attention of hon. Members who are interested in the subject —very rightly also—that the population in Madras City has increased, and all the people who can afford to give some charity are concentrating in Madras for their own purposes. As beggars know their own business they come here in greater numbers. I think these are all connected natural phenomena with reference to (1) our economic condition and (2) the movement of our rural population to urban centres. I think that this is not a light matter, nor is it an easy matter."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In view of the fact that the
10 a.m. beggar nuisance in Madras City has not abated, will the Government see that further steps are taken to check the increase of beggars? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I deprecate the use of the phrase ' beggar nuisance '. It is not to be looked upon as a nuisance. It has to be looked upon as a fact and as an economic symptom."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Answers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings."

Representations from the Bethapudi Rajakajane Tenants' Co-operative Society, Guntur district.

* 406 *Q.*—SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received representations from the Bethapudi Rajakajane Tenants' Co-operative Society No. 1217 that the lands bearing S. Nos. 600 to 659 in Murukondapadu village, Guntur district, which are already in possession of the members of the society be assigned to the society and if so, the action taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, the matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Import of cotton seeds from East Punjab.

* 407 *Q.*—SRI V. SRI KRISHNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government imported P. 216 F. cotton seeds from East Punjab to sell them to the ryots in delta areas of the Circar districts;

(*b*) whtther the Government took into considerotion the suitability of the soil and the climate for these seeds;

(*c*) whether the Government are able to sell the stocks; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the staff in the Agricultural department are being threatened with penalty if the stocks are left unsold?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) During 1952 the Government imported from East Punjab P. 216 F. cotton seeds for distribution to the ryots for cultivation in the rice fallows of Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot districts and *not* in the *delta* areas of *Circar* districts.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The answers are in the affirmative.

" (*d*) The answer is in the negative."

Cultivation of banjar lands.

* 408 *Q.*—SRI K. SUBBA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken by the Government for the cultivation of ' banjar ' lands; and

(*b*) what is the total acreage of banjar lands in the State?